Department of Veterans Affairs

Memorandum

Date: APR 2 8 2006

From: Assistant Secretary for Information and Technology (005)

Subj: VA IT Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Communications Councils, EDMS 351177

To: Deputy Secretary, Under Secretaries, Assistant Secretaries and Other Key Officials

1. This is to alert you to the new Councils that have established as provided in the Federated IT System Model approved by the Secretary on March 22, 2006:

a. Operations and Maintenance Communications Council (formerly VISN CIO Council)
Chair: ADAS for Operations
Membership: Executive Director for Field Operations, Business Operations, Telecommunications and Systems Engineering, Regional Directors (Regions 1 – 4), VISN CIOs, VBA, NCS, EES and Staff Offices Representatives
Meeting Frequency: Quarterly Teleconference
Purpose: The Operations and Maintenance Communications Council functions to disseminate national IT information covering a wide range of topics such as portfolio/project status, budget planning/execution, enterprise architecture, cyber and information security and Development Domain activities. The Council also serves as a forum to solicit feedback and participation on national projects, task forces, etc.

b. Field Operations Council (FOC)
Co-Chairs: Executive Director for Field Operations and Executive Director for Systems Engineering
Membership: Regional Directors (Regions 1 – 4), CTOs (Regions 1 – 4), VISN CIOs, VBA, NCA, EES and Staff Office Representatives
Meeting Frequency: Monthly
Purpose: The FOC functions to provide bi-directional feedback on recurring IT Operations across the Department. The FOC also serves as the check and balance clearinghouse as VA standardizes IT operations, policies and procedures.

c. Regional Operations Council (ROC)
Chair: Regional Director
Membership: VISN CIOs, CTOs (Regions 1 – 4), Facility CIO Representatives
Meeting Frequency: Weekly
Purpose: There is one ROC per IT Region. The ROC serves to address daily operations concerns across the regional organization. The ROC is also the second tier information dissemination body to the Field Operations Council.

VA IT Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Communications Councils

d. Enterprise Solutions Council (ESC)
Chair: Executive Director for Systems Engineering
Membership: CTOs, Development Domain Representatives from Administrations and Staff Office Representatives
Meeting Frequency: Monthly
Purpose: The ESC provides a forum to coordinate activities in the Development Domain with Systems Engineering activities in the O&M Domain.

e. Architecture Planning Workgroup (APW)
Chair: CTO for System Engineering
Membership: Current membership
Meeting Frequency: Weekly
Purpose: The APW will continue to provide coordination and expertise for managing operational and tactical issues affecting IT operations.

2. Should there be any questions, please have a member of your staff contact Mr. Gary Twedt, Deputy Executive Director, OI&T Operations Business Division, at 401-273-7100, extension 2375.

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